

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 30, 2003. Claims 1, 3, 4, 17, and 18 have been amended. Claims 2 and 5-16 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 21 and 22 have been added. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 17-22 are now pending and at issue.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of drying the thermoplastic norbornene resin in "pellet form," drying the resin "for use as a raw material in the manufacture of the substrate of a magnetic recording medium," and conducting the drying "at a temperature between 80° and 120°C." Support for these amendments is found in the Specification at page 6, lines 8-10 and page 14, lines 21-25. No new matter has been added.

Claims 3, 4, 17, and 18 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their corresponding base claim(s).

New claims 21 and 22 have been added. Support for new claims 21 and 22 is found in the Specification at page 14, lines 21-25.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 3, 4 and 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claim(s). Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 17, and 18 have been amended to be in independent form, including all of the limitations of base and intermediate claims. Accordingly, the objections to claims 3, 4, and 17-20 should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and (e)

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Moody et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,011) ("Moody"), Brekner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,439,722) ("Brekner"), and Japanese Patent Publication No. 07-224155 ("JP '155"); and under § 102(e) as anticipated by Kawaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,563,263) ("Kawaguchi"). Claim 2 was not discussed by the Examiner in the office action, however, Applicants assume that the Examiner rejected this claim.

The Examiner contends that Moody, Brekner, and Kawaguchi disclose drying of thermoplastic norbornene resin under at least one of a vacuum and ordinary pressure. The Examiner contends that JP '155 discloses drying of thermoplastic norbornene resin at a temperature between 80° and 120°C, under at least one of a vacuum and ordinary pressure. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 2 has been canceled, without prejudice, and the rejection of this claim is rendered moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the step of "drying said thermoplastic resin in pellet form for use as a raw material in the manufacture of the substrate of a magnetic recording medium at a temperature between 80° and 120°C." In contrast, Moody does not disclose the production of norbornene resins in pellet form for use as a recording medium. Further, Moody does not disclose the claimed feature of drying at temperatures of 80° to 120°C. Accordingly, Moody does not disclose every element and cannot anticipate Claim 1. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Brekner does not disclose a resin for use as a raw material in the manufacture of the substrate of a magnetic storage medium, but instead discloses a process for producing a substrate for optical storage mediums (e.g., CDs and DVDs). See Brekner, column 2, lines 5-14. Optical storage mediums can tolerate greater levels of defect in the recording substrate, as opposed to a magnetic recording medium. The playback of optical recording media can tolerate a defect in the media in the order of several hundred μm without adverse affect to the playback quality. In contrast, the distance between the read/write head and the magnetic recording medium is such that a defect in the order of several hundred μm would cause a read/write error. Thus, Brekner does not disclose or suggest the use of norbornene resin to produce a substrate for a magnetic storage medium. Further, Brekner does not disclose the formation of norbornene pellets, but instead discloses the formation of disks. Accordingly, Brekner does not disclose every element and cannot anticipate Claim 1. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

JP '155 discloses neither the formation of norbornene pellets nor as a raw material in the manufacture of a substrate of a magnetic recording medium. Instead, JP

'155 discloses norbornene-based resin that is used as a molding for optics (e.g., lenses). See JP '155, abstract. Unlike the present invention, JP '155 does not disclose using norbornene pellets as a raw material but instead discloses molding the norbornene into the final product, then drying the resin. See JP '155, abstract. Accordingly, JP '155 does not disclose every element and cannot anticipate Claim 1. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Kawaguchi does not disclose the formation of norbornene pellets or the use of norbornene as a raw material in the manufacture of a substrate of a magnetic recording medium. Instead, Kawaguchi discloses the use of norbornene as a protective layer for an electroluminescence device. Further, the norbornene utilized as a protective coating is dried directly onto the final product, and is not used as a raw material for the production of a different product. Accordingly, Kawaguchi does not disclose every element and cannot anticipate Claim 1. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 30, 2003

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